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and prime of his faculties to this grim idol of war. I am a man of (I hope) some sensibility. I assure you it grieves my tender nature when I contemplate the young of the flock condemned to the slaughter; when I see the farmer making his bargain with the butcher, my nature starts up into mutiny, and I say in myself, "God forbid! the creature has but just stepped into life, it has a right to live and to enjoy the feast spread before it by the Creator's bountiful hand; ah let it live and enjoy the innocence of nature!" Now if God so clothe the field with the feast of life, and have bid creatures to be born with taste and talents for enjoyment, for cropping the meat and bounding on the verdant pasture; ah then, ah then, dear parents let your children live; forbear to spread before them temptations, allurements, and sophisticating maxims which they may not be able to withstand. If youth are ready to make mistakes, and to call disgrace by the name of honour, to call abandonment and prostitution glory: if they are disposed to substitute Roman bravery and patriotism in the place of christian fortitude, forgiveness of injuries and the great law and duty of universal benevolence, why then, as is your duty, correct this erring folly and phrensy. What folly and madness, to call yourselves christians, to say that you have been educated on principles of christian virtue, to think this and yet go forth into the world and act on principles diametrically reverse, and teach your children so to do! Does not Christ upbraid you in his gospel for this? "What father among you," says he, "who if his child ask bread, will give him a stone?" but you do it to your everlasting confusion; the beginning of which sensation I was witness to when I called in to see my friend. I leave it with you,

I enter my protest, that is all I can do, and remain,

Your constant reader,
A S.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

YOUR monthly extract from Friend's Evening Amusements must be deemed not the least interesting part of your agreeable miscellany. Such at least is my feeling. Though no astronomer, I think I have an equal right with Sir Isaac Newton himself, to derive pleasure from the view of that magnificence and admirable order, that nightly reigns in

"The spacious firmament on high,"

and directs the motion of the heavenly bodies. I do therefore frequently employ a part of my evening in remarking, and endeavouring to account for their varying positions, in relation to one another; and I think I can take a more sublime delight, and a truer satisfaction in these exercises, than the joys of theatres, or the gayest circles of fashion, could supply to their most enamoured votaries.

My declaration, that "I am no astronomer," will appear, I suppose, a very superfluous acknowledgment, when I mention the *little scruple* that I wish to have done away by some of your learned correspondents. The star in the tail of the Small Bear, is (I believe,) within 2 degrees of the North Pole. As the elevation of the pole is always equal to the latitude of the place, the distance of this star from the horizon should never exceed the latitude by more than 2 degrees. And so, we should never see this star more than 57 degrees above the horizon, or 33 degrees from the point of Zenith. Now the Polar star is, *sensibly*, dis-

tant from the horizon considerable more, and from the Zenith, *evidently much less*, than the above number of degrees.

This is an obvious phenomenon, seemingly at variance with what is taught, and not explained, as far as I have met with, in any common book of Astronomy.

I am yours, &c.,

STAR-GAZER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MEDICAL REPORT FROM THE PHYSICIAN BELONGING TO THE INSTITUTION FOR ADMINISTERING MEDICAL AID TO THE SICK POOR, AND ASSISTING THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE DURING SICKNESS; AND FOR PREVENTING THE SPREADING OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

THE year 1812 was ushered in with an unusual number of Catarrhal and Pulmonary Affections, exceeding both in severity and duration those cases which came under the observation of the writer, during the month of January, in the preceding year. In many of those cases, which are placed under the head of Catarrh, the symptoms were so severe, and the lungs so much engaged, as to require the use of the lancet. None of those which came under the observation of the writer were immediately fatal; in many instances, however, through the neglect of the unhappy sufferers, a foundation was laid for Pthisis, the most deplorable disease that afflicts the human body. Accordingly, we find this disease much more frequent during the early part of this year, than during the early part of 1811, when Catarrhal and Pulmonary affections were not so numerous,

nor marked with symptoms of such severity.

Dysentery prevailed to a considerable extent during this month. In many instances, the symptoms were severe, and the duration of the disease protracted to a considerable length. In all, purging, when applied under favourable circumstances, was eminently successful. In some of those tedious cases, where, from neglect of timely application, the severity of the symptoms had broken down the strength of the patient, and the use of active remedies was necessarily suspended, the combination of nitrous acid and opium, so strongly recommended by some of the English physicians, was exhibited with some appearance of success.

During this month, we had our usual proportion of fever.

During the month of February, the quantity of fever was not increased; and the Catarrhal and Pulmonary affections were diminished, both in number and severity. Dysentery, however, still held its ground, and in many instances its cure was tedious and troublesome. None of those cases, which came under the observation of the writer, proved fatal.

During this month, the writer had an opportunity of treating a disease, as rare in its occurrence, as it is imperfectly understood, even by the most eminent practitioners. Pilegmasia dolens is a disease, which has been scarcely noticed by the ancient writers, and excited but little of the attention of the moderns, till the appearance of Mr. White's inquiry into its nature and causes, which was published in the year 1784. From the reports of this work, we may fairly infer, that it is not a disease which often occurs to the medical practitioner. As a proof of the rarity of its occurrence, Mr.